



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services
State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee
P.O. Box 470186 • Charlotte, North Carolina 28247

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Michael Moseley, Director
Jere Annis, Chairperson

July 18, 2005

Dear CFAC Chairs:

As all of you know, providing services to individuals with the most severe disabilities in the communities of their choice is the primary focus of the re-designed MH/DD/SAS system. As legislatively mandated, the Department of Health and Human Services has established "target populations" that meet specified criteria and are eligible to receive services through the public system. Of course, any individual can seek services through the public MH/DD/SAS system. If the person is not a member of a target population, the system will provide emergency services as well as screening, triage and referral to private providers and other community organizations.

State Plan 2004 calls for actions at the local level to address the needs of non-target populations. These actions "will require leadership and collaboration with consumers, families, advocates, community leaders, other agencies, providers, physicians and others who can help make services and community supports available to non-target populations." This requires the LME to network and build working relationships with both public and private agencies, such as: non-governmental social agencies, YMCAs, YWCAs, shelters, faith-based human service initiatives, support and recovery groups etc. The fate of many of the people we serve depends on the success of these activities. This represents a perfect opportunity for Consumer and Family Advisory Groups (CFACs) to partner with their LMEs and to provide assistance to them in these efforts.

We encourage you to make this one of your CFAC's priorities. Consumers and families have a unique understanding and perspective of the effectiveness of these types of services and supports. This perspective will prove invaluable in assisting your LME in the development of natural and community supports for non-target populations. Working in partnership with your LME in this respect is in agreement with the responsibilities of the CFAC and the result of this effort will be better care for the people we serve.

Respectfully,

The State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee

